

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3330

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SF, SHUM, PINT
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS--COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN - SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 151647,

1. WE BELIEVE THE COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN (CEP) FOR SOUTH AFRICA TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL IS BASICALLY VALID AND SUITABLE FOR THE INTENDED PURPOSE AS OUTLINED BY STATE 139160. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, SUGGEST CERTAIN ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS.

2. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS CONCERNING SECTION A2:
(A) INCLUDE REFERENCE TO COMPREHENSIVE PUBLICATION CONTROL:
"THERE IS ANY ARRAY OF LAWS WHICH THE STATE USES TO DEPRIVE ANYONE, WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE COURTS, THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH, DISTRIBUTE, OR EVEN POSSESS PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER MATERIALS DETERMINED BY THE STATE TO BE UNDESIRABLE."

(B) WITH RESPECT TO BANNING, ADD THAT THE PROHIBITION AGAINST A BANNED PERSON MEETING WITH MORE THAN ONE OTHER PERSON CAN AND FREQUENTLY DOES INCLUDE FAMILY MEMBERS.

(C) WITH RESPECT TO INFLUX CONTROL, ADD: "THOUGH NOT ALWAYS EFFECTIVELY APPLIED, LEGISLATION PROHIBITING BLACK WORKERS
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FROM BRINGING THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN TO URBAN AREAS HAS RESULTED IN THE SPLITTING OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES."

(D) CONCERNING THE PORTION OF SECTION 2A ON PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT, ADD: "THE GOVERNMENT IS IN SUCH OVERWHELMING CONTROL OF PARLIAMENT THAT IT CAN AT WILL SECURE ANY LIGISLATION IMPINGING ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHENEVER THE GOVERNMENT DEEMS IT NECESSARY.

"

3. A SOMEWHAT MORE PRECISE PICTURE WOULD BE PRESENTED IF THE SECOND HALF OF SECTION B2-3 WERE AMENDED TO READ: "SINCE ONLY A FEW WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE MONDALE-VORSTER MEETING, IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHAT THE LONGER-RUN RESULTS WILL BE IN TERMS OF A CHANGE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDES AND POLICIES. A NEW PHENOMENON, SPURRED INITIALLY BY LAST YEAR'S WIDESPREAD VIOLENT RACIAL DISTURBANCES AND NOW FURTHER ENCOURAGED BY THE VORSTER-MONDALE MEETING, HAS BEEN THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN OUTSPOKEN ADVOCACY BY PROMINENT AFRIKANERS--THE BACKBONE OF THE WHITE REGIME--OF THE NEED FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGE. THIS HAS NOT, HOWEVER, BROUGHT ABOUT ANY MODIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL PARTY POSITION ON THE KEY ISSUE OF POWER SHARING." (RECOMMEND REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC KOORNHOF PROPOSAL BE DELETED.)

4. THE LATTER PORTION OF SECTION B4 SHOULD, WE THINK, BE SLIGHTLY MODIFIED AS WELL: "...STRONG US POSITION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. THOUGH WE MUST ACCEPT THAT RISKS ARE INVOLVED, IN THE LONG-RUN FURTHERANCE OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE PROTECTION OF THESE INTERESTS, SINCE THEY ALL STAND TO BE THREATENED BY A CONTINUED WORSENING IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL SITUATION AND BY THE OPPORTUNITIES SUCH WORSENING SITUATION AFFORDS OUR ADVERSARIES."

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5. THERE IS ONE ERROR TO BE CORRECTED: THE EXPRESSION "WHITE MAJORITY" IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF SECTION A3 SHOULD READ "WHITE MINORITY".
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